

# INFORMATION REPORT - INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Standard of Living of Communists and Anti-Communists; Soviet Economic Specialists in Bulgaria	DATE DISTR.	2 September 1955	25X1
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The most recent harvest in Bulgaria was poor. Foodstuffs are lacking, although through the black market it is possible to obtain meat slaughtered in secret and eggs which have not been delivered to the state. The tendency to hide produce is on the increase and the farmers try to set enough aside for the future, which they anticipate to be difficult.
2. There was a sugar shortage throughout Bulgaria for eight months during 1954. For political reasons, sugar was available only in Sofia. At present sugar costs 10 leva per kilogram, black bread costs three leva per kilogram, and white bread costs five leva per kilogram. However, the export of consumer goods to the USSR continues in spite of these shortages.
3. Members of the Communist Party, or non-members, who show themselves to be fervent activists are allowed to hold several jobs, and hence receive more than one wage. Because they receive higher wages in general, they have a considerable economic advantage over the average Bulgarian worker and can afford such goods as woolen material, which costs approximately 300 leva per meter. These will always remain unattainable to the average worker, who gets approximately 600 leva per month.
4. In actual practice the Soviets control the economy and many other activities of the country. The USSR ships to Bulgaria a certain amount of machinery and weapons. Foremost in machinery coming from the USSR are agricultural machines. These are nearly always accompanied by a large number of technicians who, it is thought in Burgas, have responsibilities of a political and military nature in addition to the duty of training the Bulgarians in the use of the machinery.

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